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Treasure Acres

O. M. Ueland, Editor, Capitol Station, Helena, Montana

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1973

A. G. SLATTERY - PREZ SEZ

This issue of Treasure Acres returns to the old format because of situations the Association is presently unable to cope with. As finances will permit and new arrangements can be made Treasure Acres will again be improved. Our thanks are extended to Ray Fenton for publishing and editing a good sample of the type of Treasure Acres we had in 1972.

I have spent considerable time tending to legislative matters and I express my sincere appreciation to Bob Anderson whose legislative report appears in this issue and to people like Chuck Lane, Frank Thompson, John Vanisko, Pete Jackson, Dale Marxer, Cecil Weeding, Paul Kleffner, the Ruby Valley CD Board, Meagher

(Continued - Page 3)

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Bob Anderson

Conservation Districts have been quite active during the present session promoting basic concepts of land use planning, multiple use, sediment control, etc. A large number of supervisors have been utilized for testimony and the important task of keeping track of bills that are of interest to your Association. This is quite a job. Hearing dates are set and then changed, bills are killed and then revived, etc. I note that nearly every organization in the state now has a full time lobbyist. While you and I probably don't like the word "lobbyist", I think we should consider the use of a legislative coordinator, bill watcher, or whatever you wish to call him or her in future years. A wealth of supervisors are available to give testimony if the proper information is given and time for preparation is allowed. The workload can be distributed and you will be more informed. Think about this a little in the coming months and perhaps you can come up with a solution for the important years ahead.

Following is a report on some bills districts are interested in:

(Continued - Page 2)

Legislative Report (cont)

HB 180 - Abolishing the State Conservation Commission has passed. The MACD understandably was against this bill.

SB 444 - Water Use Act, to provide for administration and central recording of water rights, has been amended to provide for district court administration. This bill is controversial, but has general support that Montana needs good records of water rights to document as against future uses of water by downstream users and others.

SB 405 - Forest Practices Act has been carried over to 1974.

SB 401 - An act to amend Conservation Districts Law to provide for accelerated sediment control has been carried over to 1974. This will provide for standards and mandatory controls to comply with National Water Quality Act.

HB 341 - SB 208 - Are related Acts to provide for adoption and enforcement of subdivision rules by counties in accordance with standards. Present effort is to combine HB 341 with SB 208. HB 341 resulted from a resolution of MACD to provide better planning for and control of haphazard land developments in rural areas.

HB 275 - To require membership of a Conservation District supervisor on county planning boards. This bill is a result of an MACD resolution to assure liaison between CD land use planning and county land use planning, to avoid duplication, etc. This bill seems assured of passage.

SEARCH FOR EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

President Slattery has assigned the "SEEK" proposal followup to Bob Anderson and Ray Fenton. They report the following: After a careful evaluation of funding probabilities, time, and expense involved in preparing a new grant application, state board meeting difficulties, etc, it has been decided that the SEEK application should be reduced to a county level as more or less a pilot project grant for this year. This makes grant preparation much simpler, and of course brings the dollar request more in line with the grants approved in recent years.

Cascade County CD is preparing the application at this time, and hopefully we can get off the ground with this approach.

Treasure Acres will be published by the MACD, with O. M. Ueland, Chief of the Conservation Districts Division in Helena as Editor. As usual, a host of problems have arisen but they are gradually being worked out, and we are moving forward.

Legislative Report (Cont)

HJR 35 - A Proposal for Montana Land Use Policy has passed the House. This Proposal is a result of MACD resolution.

Bills dealing with environmental protection, mined land reclamation, weather modification, wild and scenic rivers, streambanks, agriculture land assessments, and many others have been of concern to districts.

PREZ SEZ (cont.)

County CD supervisors and numerous other supervisors who have appeared in Helena before committees and have written or called their delegates in Helena.

I have attended the NACD Convention in Las Vegas. Numerous Montana supervisors in attendance involved themselves in various committee meetings which were informative, instructive, and presented challenge.

In view of the present complications in Washington, D.C., we are presently considering sending a delegation to meet with various administration and congressional people there to do what we can to help seek new programs, new directions in behalf of districts. These meetings have proven helpful in the past. We need to be helpful to the future.

I appreciate the work of our committees and of their actions of involvement. This denotes dedication.

I appreciate the attitude of the districts to the new dues schedule. It give me confidence that districts want to pay as much as they can, and if a partial payment is made they have indicated they will pay more later when additional revenue comes in. It is very essential, if we are going to have an effective and working Association, we are going to have to adequately finance it. You cannot have an effective Association without your monetary action.

A bright spot in MACD activity is the operation of our Plant Materials Center at Bridger. Many native grass species are being tested and selections made to provide foundation seed to growers.

The PMC outlook financially is very encouraging. It is proving to be an excellent investment for districts.

PETE JACKSON

NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT
SOCIETY FOR RANGE MANAGEMENT

Congratulations are in order to Pete Jackson, Harrison, Mont. rancher, and Conservation District supervisor, who was recently elected and installed as President-elect of the Society for Range Management at the annual meeting in Boise, Idaho in February.

The Society is an international organization composed of ranchers and technical people, and a growing number of other people representing disciplines associated with grass and range management.

MONTANA RANGELAND RESOURCE PROGRAM PROGRESS REPORT

Pete Jackson

Since the last issue of Treasure Acres, the Rangeland Resource Program has completed the first phase of implementation by obtaining sponsoring groups in every county in the state. These sponsors have named an individual to act as their county rangeland resource leader and I would like to comment that the caliber of these individuals is extremely high which reflects the importance placed in the program. We have recently completed a series of 7 meetings with the county leaders to outline suggested projects for their programs in 1973.

The highest priority for the leaders this year will be a rangeland inventory, which will reflect the ownership of the rangelands, their condition, the demands that are being placed upon them by the general public, the critical wild life habitat areas, stock water developments and recreational locations. This information will be available in a small publication which the leaders can distribute to various organizations and groups to make them aware of the vital importance of the rangelands to the economy and general well being of the people of Montana.

Education is probably the largest single program that the leaders will be working with. 1973 will see our leaders arranging for range tours for ranchers, businessmen, ministers, and children. These tours will be conducted in many forms from large well coordinated tours to small informal ones attended by a few professional ranchers looking for technical advice.

The leaders will be working with the young people thru the 4-H, FFA and Scouting programs giving presentations or arranging for technical people to explain the range management projects.

The importance of the range lands to the downtown business and urban folks will be emphasized by giving presentations to Chambers of Commerce, Lions Clubs, Rotary and other civic organizations.

Today there is a growing importance placed on land use planning. The county leaders will be presenting the rangeland resource program to county planning boards when they are established to make them aware of the importance of the rangelands in general comprehensive land use planning. The leaders will be offering their assistance or arranging for technical people to be drawn into the planning process.

It is always very gratifying to see the originality and aggressiveness of these individual leaders and the manner in which they have organized their particular county program. For example, several counties have developed committees which represent a wide variety of interests and I feel that this is an excellent approach.

The Rangeland Resource Program is becoming widely know as an energetic statewide land use program and has again proven that the local people are the most logical persons to get action in programs that deal with natural resources, their planning, use and development.

Vi Swank

Hello from your State Auxiliary President. To be more effective as a state organization, we need to organize more local auxiliaries. Membership may be any interested lady (usually supervisors and SCS personnel wives but not necessarily limited to these ladies). There is only one organized group in the state. I would like to ask you supervisors to encourage any interested wives to get busy and organize an auxiliary for your district. It can be an interesting and rewarding experience to belong to conservation district auxiliary. There are many things the ladies can do to help the supervisors.

Being a member of the Roosevelt County CD Auxiliary, I enjoy meeting with the group once every 3 months - special meetings can be called when there is some special project to be worked on.

We have fun serving a noon lunch to the 8th graders of the county schools when they go on the CD sponsored tour of the different conservation practices in the area. This is an annual tour each spring, usually on 3 different days to accommodate the large area of our district and the number of students involved. The supervisors furnish the materials and the ladies prepare and serve the lunch. Our menu is simple--hot dogs, potato chips, pop and coffee for the students, teachers and supervisors attending.

Our main purpose is to help get the educational materials into the proper places. Soil Stewardship Week provides a good time to get some educational material to the people. Films can be rented and shown to different classes in the schools. Funny book type leaflets are available to pass out to the students to make different phases of conservation more meaningful to children and adults too. It's kind of fun to sit down and read one of these leaflets. There is any amount of educational material that can be put into school and public libraries. And who better to see that this is done than we, as an Auxiliary, who want to see that our country is preserved for future generations through good conservation practices.

The Speech Contest is another interesting project that the Auxiliary could help promote and it would be a challenge to see how many participants we could interest in this project.

If you are interested in organizing an Auxiliary in your district and if I can be of any help to you, please feel free to contact me by phone - 448-3137 or write to me - just Poplar, Mt. 59255.

NOTE TO SUPERVISORS: Please call this article to your wife's attention. Thanks.

North Custer CD -- A meeting with county commissioners was discussed and tentative arrangements made: Jim Richardson will act as moderator. It is generally felt that the five areas of concern need to be discussed with the commissioners at this time as follows:

1. Use of Revenue Sharing funds for installation of needed conservation treatment.
2. A soil survey for Custer County.
3. Cooperation and acceleration of weed control programs.
4. Cooperative efforts toward a county-wide roadside sloping and seeding programs for county roads.
5. Land Use Planning along with efforts toward a county plan.

Deer Lodge Valley CD -- A Project Measure Proposal was drawn up and signed by the board. It was to try to get more professional help headquartered in the field office to carry out resource conservation planning and application.

Dawson County CD -- A meeting with county commissioners and representatives of local, federal, and state agencies was held in the community room of the county courthouse.

Garfield CD -- Don Anderson, Resource Conservationist, Eastern Montana Economic Development Association, discussed functions and purpose of the Association, problems and opportunities, and resource data of the county to assist with long range planning.

Gallatin CD -- Because the Flood Plain Study Report had just been released, the Board spend considerable time studying the report. This report can be used in many different applications.

Eastern Sanders CD -- Trembloy reported on Sediment Control Conference in Helena. A booklet entitled "Model State Act for Sediment Control" will be put into the ESCD binder at the SCS Office for reference of supervisors.

Petroleum County CD -- Doug reported that he attended a meeting of the Mid-Flatwillow Watershed Project and had signed a paper in his capacity as chairman of the board for a feasibility study.

Rosebud County CD -- Motion by Everett Redeen that the district assist with expenses to send Bob Nansel to the Society for Range Management meeting at Boise, Idaho. Bob has been selected as a Youth Range Forum Delegate from one Northern Great Plains Section.

Flathead County CD -- A meeting with USDA agencies and state agencies relating to the conservation tour and the district work plan was discussed. Herb Koenig, Lewis Fuller, and Merle Lyda were appointed to coordinate dates for planning this meeting.

Jefferson Valley CD -- Axel Nelson of Silver Star was selected Outstanding Cooperator for 1972. The Goodyear Score Sheet was reviewed and checked out. The District Clerk will complete the score sheet.

Daniels County CD -- There was discussion on a Waste Disposal Pit for Flaxville and Scobey. Ron Fjeld and Wilfred French will take the information back to their respective city councils.

NACD CONVENTION REPORT

Carl Johnson, Councilman and
State Conservation Commission

It would be impossible to condence a highly successful NACD Convention report into a few short paragraphs, so I will only attempt to "hit" some of the hi-spots.

There were over 2,000 people in attendance. All 50 states were represented as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. I did not get an accurate head count of Montana but did count upwards of 25 persons. I'm sure there were more.

This was the busiest session of NACD's Council that I have attended. It took the better part of three days to act on and dispose of thirteen resolutions from NACD's Resolution Committee as well as sixty-six general resolutions. It was truly democracy in action!

Basically, NACD's program calls for the following:

Greater federal commitment to natural resource programs.

Disagreement with low ranking within the scale of national priorities for agricultural and rural development as well as for natural resources and environment.

In strict opposition to termination of REAP and Water Bank Programs. Urge that these programs be returned to status of FY 1973 at least.

Need more, not less, attention to soil and water conservation, forestry, public land management, sediment control, and related resource efforts on which the future wealth and well being of our country depends.

NACD's Council also approved action on the following resolutions:

Research to develop new techniques for cleaner use of high sulfur fossil fuels and perfection of safe fusion reactors, and development of energy from magnetohydrodynamic, geothermal, and solar energy processes.

Funds for the Soil Conservation Service for an Urban Environmental Conservation Program to accelerate work in resource data collection and interpretation, sediment control, storm water management planning, and environmental enhancement.

Early funding and implementation of the Rural Development Act of 1972.

Opposition to granting public access to all single purpose P.L. 566 and RC&D reservoirs.

Release of impounded funds for staffing and operating soil and water conservation research facilities already constructed.

Treatment of pollution from normal farm and ranch operations under non-point source provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972.

Authority for the Dept. of Agriculture to provide technical and financial assistance for land treatment in RC&D Projects on the basis of long term contracts.

Passage by Congress of A National Resource Lands Management Act, to provide explicit authority for the Secretary of the Interior, and the BLM to manage the lands under BLM jurisdiction under the principles of multiple use, sustained yield, maintenance

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Convention Report (cont.)

of environmental quality, public participation in planning and decision making, and intergovernmental cooperation.

Continuation of watershed protection and flood prevention programs proposed to be eliminated by the National Water Commission.

A study by the District Outlook Committee of the utilization of conservation districts by a wider variety of state and federal agencies in carrying out natural resources and environmental programs.

A campaign to heighten public awareness of the importance of good soil and water conservation and its effects on the environment.

There was also a followup by Mr. Tom Wharram, Chouteau CD Chairman and Mr. Bob Anderson, Ft. Benton, of a resolution by NACD passed last year which dealt with the alkali and saline seep problem in the Highwood and Great Falls area. Colorado also submitted a resolution concerning salinity in certain areas of Colorado. The Bureau of Reclamation has been given money and leadership to carry out this research. It is felt that farmers and ranchers need some protection and high rate of cost-sharing for the applied conservation practices.

This resolution from California kind of "puts it all together"!

"Ecological Balance

Whereas, society is demanding more and more conservation practices, and

Whereas, society has discovered ecology, and

Whereas, due to law and court decisions, environmental impact reports and studies are required before any private or public projects may be started, and

Whereas, these reports require considerable technical knowledge, and

Whereas, the only organized and ongoing programs which have attempted to maintain an ecological balance through conservation practices have been those conducted by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and Conservation Districts,

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Congress and the President of the United States recognize this fact and immediately strengthen this cooperative program that these demands of society be met, and

Be it further resolved, that the National Association of Conservation Districts support additional funding to the Soil Conservation Service to fulfill those demands of Society."

DISTRICT DOINGS

Okmulgee County CD, Oklahoma - will receive $15,000 in federal revenue sharing funds. This announcement was made during a recent Okmulgee County Commissioners meeting. The money is to be used to purchase equipment for a county wide solid waste disposal program. Several other districts are checking into the possibility of receiving revenue sharing funds for conservation projects.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1972

Of interest to Conservation Districts is the Rural Development Act of 1972 if properly funded. This act in brief expands the authorities of Farmers Home Administration to insure loans to meet objectives of a P.L. 566 Watershed Project or a Resources Conservation and Development Project to include Rural Enterprise loans--business and service facilities, loans to rural youth, and essential community facilities.

The Rural Development Act amends the Small Watershed Act to provide assistance to store water for later release for water quality; for construction of lagoons for recycling to irrigation. More importantly to conservation districts the act provides for long term contracts for land treatment in "watershed" projects similar to Great Plains contracts. The act also would extend the REAP program into long term contracting for the purpose of cost-sharing conservation practices based on a "conservation plan".

REVENUE SHARING

County Commissioners are receiving funds under the general Revenue Sharing Bill, (state and local fiscal act). Conservation Districts should consider the categories of "environmental protection," "health and recreation" for which these funds may be used and inform county commissioners. Examples for requests of funds may include staff assistance, publications, or inventory work on such problems as flooding, multipurpose water developments, soil surveys and range management acceleration, (land use planning).

FARM FORESTRY CHAIRMAN CAUTIONS WOODLAND OWNERS

Don Naegeli

Montana Forest Practices Act is tabled. Now what are you timber owners going to do? Are you going to sit back and wait until someone else puts forth another act from a federal level? No, you should get out and see what the rest of Montana's people are doing that you could do too.

After all, that's why you bought your own farm, ranch or woodland so you could be free to do as you want. However, some people have other ideas as to management, therefore, I am requesting each and everyone of you farmers and ranchers that have private woodlands to get out and use your own Forester in your conservation district or Service Forester from the State Forestry Division. Set up your own management plan on your farm or ranch to the best interest for you to use your land in the multiple purpose way. When you set a plan up for timber management, check the streams for erosion control and do not forget your ranch and timber pasture. These all add more to your project and furthermore, you will be able to manage it as you want. Your neighbor, who may not be a cooperator, will follow suite when he sees your good example.

BOARD OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

Governor Tom Judge has appointed two new members to the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation. They are Dr. Wilson Clark of Billings and Mr. Owen Sowerwine of Kalispell. Reappointed was Dean Hanson of Gildford. Holdover members are Riley Ostby of Wolf Point and Joseph Sabol of Bozeman.

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O. M. Ueland, Editor, Capitol Station, Helena, Montana

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

MARCH-APRIL, 1973

A. G. SLATTERY - PREZ SEZ

New trends in land use planning are becoming more apparent every day in this complex and changing society. CDs have historically championed land use plans for individual farms and ranches. More recently they have given assistance and technical information to non-agricultural land use planning such as cities and counties, industry, urban development subdivisions, mined land reclamation, sediment control, pollution abatement, highways, flood plains and many others.

The following situations will be of growing concern to Montana CDs:

1. County Planning - The 1973 legislature passed legislation which requires a CD supervisor

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YOU AND THE NEW WATER LAW

Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation

Extensive preparations are being made by the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to administer the recently enacted Montana Water Use Act. The Dept. is also attempting to answer questions of water users regarding steps which must be taken to comply with the new law's provisions. The following are most commonly asked:

1. What should I be doing now?

Nothing needs to be done right now, because the law won't go into effect until July 1. Immediately on and after this date, there are three kinds of situations which may require action on your part:

(A) If you want to begin a new use of water, one not started before July 1, you must file an application for a permit with the Dept., using a form furnished by the Dept. and available at the Dept.'s or County Clerks and Recorders' offices. The only exception to the application and permit system of acquiring a new water right is that, outside the boundaries of an established controlled groundwater area, a permit will not be required before a well is drilled to appropriate water for domestic, agricultural,

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or livestock purposes if the maximum yield is less than 100 gallons per minute. However, the water well driller must file a well log report, and the appropriator must file a notice of completion with the Dept. within 60 days after the well is completed. If the notice of completion is not filed, the appropriator's water right will not be recognized. Both forms will be available from the Dept. or your County Clerk and Recorder.

(B) If you buy land and thereby acquire a water right, you, the purchaser, must file a copy of the transferring instrument with the Dept. and the appropriate county.

(C) If you want to sever a water right from the land, or effect a change in your water right, including but not limited to place of diversion, place of use, purpose of use, or place of storage, you must first obtain the approval of the Dept. Appropriate forms will be available for your use from the Dept. and your local County Clerk and Recorder.

If you're not involved in any of the situations described, all you need do is wait until your area is selected for the court determination of existing water rights.

2. What is an existing water right?

A right to the use of water which would be protected under the law as it existed prior to the effective date of the act (July 1, 1973). If, in the past, you've diverted water from a stream, pumped it from a well, or irrigated with flood waters, you probably have an existing right to the amount of water that you actually put to a beneficial use. It should be remembered, however, that the key to an existing right is beneficial use. Filing or non-filing of a claim to water does not in itself give or deny a legal right to water.

3. What must be done to confirm an existing right?

At this time, nothing. Eventually, however, the Dept. will initiate court proceedings in your area for the determination of all existing rights.

When your area is selected, ample notice will be given by newspaper publication and mail, and you will have one year in which to file a declaration of your existing right with the Dept. on a form provided for your use. Required information may include the dates of appropriation and first application of the water, the amount and purpose of the water appropriated, the place and means of diversion, the place and time of use, and a true copy or the docket number of any judicial decree, notice, or other claim or evidence on which the existing right is based. The declarations and other available data will be compiled by the Dept. and submitted to a District Court in the area for a determination of existing rights.

4. Must I go through a complete court proceeding if my water rights have already been adjudicated?

You may not have to. The court's preliminary decree, based on data gathered by the Dept., will become final if no objections are filed. Certificates of water rights will then be issued by the Dept., recorded by the County Clerk and forwarded to the appropriators.

5. What do I have to do if I buy water from a water association or irrigation project?

Nothing. You have a "contractual" right; it is the actual holders of the water rights who must file declarations of existing rights and apply for permits.

6. Do I contact the Dept. if I become involved in a controversy over water rights?

In most cases, disputes will continue to be handled by the

District Courts. The Dept. may also initiate court proceedings for a determination of existing rights in the area if a determination has not been made previously.

7. Can I reserve water to be put to use at some future time?

Not as an individual. After July 1, the federal government, a state agency, or a political subdivision such as a town or an irrigation district, may request a reservation of water from the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation. Again, appropriate forms will be available.

8. Will I be required to install measuring devices?

The Act provides that the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation may by rule require appropriators to install suitable controlling and measuring devices. At this time, these rules have not been adopted, but it is anticipated that such devices will not be required except in areas where water use is critical.

The Montana Water Use Act can help you individually, and it can help agriculture generally, because it will strengthen every valid claim to water. The Dept. needs your help in return, for only through your cooperation and assistance can we make the new law work as it was intended.

Therefore, if you have additional questions or suggestions on how we can better inform you of the new law's provisions, we urge you to contact the:

Water Resources Division
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Sam W. Mitchell Building
Helena, MT 59601 Ph. 449-3634

to be a member of county planning boards. This will mean that conservation districts will have active input of their land use planning programs to county land use planning programs.

2. Sediment Control Law - The Montana Legislature has under consideration SB 401, a proposed Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Law to enable Montana to comply with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. This points up added importance for land use planning for all land disturbing activities.

3. National Land Use Planning Act - The congress has under consideration several bills to require states to do land use planning and adopt land use policy. CDs should be involved.

4. Old West Commission - This is a grouping of states that are working together to develop the resources and economy of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. CDs can work actively with this Commission.

5. Montana Land Use Policy - The Montana Environmental Quality Council will be making studies under HJR 9 for Montana Land Use Policy to submit to the 1975 legislature. CDs of Montana will need to offer their ideas some of which were reflected in HJR 35, a proposal for Montana Land Use Policy.

From the foregoing you can see that Montana CDs will continue to be up to the hilt in land use planning activities.

Your President is greatly concerned with the additional workload and public demands of the CD supervisors. Also, with the cut in SCS budgets, consolidation of work units seems to be a must. If we are to continue to serve the demands of society in the public interest, CDs will need more support.

NEW SUBDIVISION LAW - SB 208

By Bill Cunningham

For years the subdivision of land in Montana has been governed by a confusing, antiquated 19th Century Plat Law. The ambiguous language in this law (Title 11, Chapter 6, RCM 1947) has made enforcement difficult and has resulted in widely differing interpretations thruout the state.

Recognizing the inadequacy of the present law to cope with speculative land development, several subdivision bills were introduced during the 43rd Montana Legislature. The most important of these was SB 208, drafted by the Dept. of Intergovernmental Relations and HB 341 which was initiated by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts. Both bills began with a 40-acre subdivision parcel definition.

After considerable citizen interest and legislative maneuvering, the two bills were consolidated. A greatly revised version of SB 208 was signed into law with administration backing and HB 341 was held over until 1974.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment was losing the 40-acre parcel definition. The bill passed with a subdivision definition of two or more parcels, any of which is ten acres or less.

Any subdivision with parcels of 10 acres or less, regardless of the method of description is covered by the new law. This will eliminate loopholes such as the widespread practice of avoiding the platting requirement with a "metes and bounds" description.

There are several exceptions to the definition of subdivision such as a gift or sale to any member of the landowner's immediate family or a lease agreement for agricultural purposes.

A key feature of SB 208 is the requirement that every local governing body adopt subdivision regulations, which must include an environmental assessment, before July 1, 1974. If such regulations fail to meet minimum requirements, the Department of Intergovernmental Relations must establish regulations to be enforced by the local governing body.

One of the more significant features of the new law, which takes effect on July 1, 1973, is the requirement that the subdivider submit an environmental assessment of water, topography, vegetation, soils, wildlife, and local service needs early in the game before the decisions and foundations are set in concrete. This requirement should help close the gap between the availability of natural resource information and the use of that information for subdivision planning.

SB 208 has excellent potential which can only be fully realized through the active interest and participation of the Conservation Districts working in cooperation with the county commissioners. If SB 208 results in a greater use of the Conservation Districts important soil, water and vegetation data, many serious land development problems will be avoided.

NOTE

Please send all remittances for MACD and SWCDMI to:

Gladys Hippe, Treasurer
Box 98
Froid, Montana 59226

LAND USE PLANNING by Holly Forrester

MACD 1972 Speech Contest Winner

Einstein once said that matter could neither be created, nor could it be destroyed; it could only be changed.

This is also true when we speak of land. Land, as we all know it, cannot be created, nor can it be destroyed, but it can be changed.

Most of our conservation problems are common knowledge. This is what I said when I began studying the problem. I found that our conservation problems are anything but common knowledge.

As a young person raised on a ranch in Montana, I have been exposed to the doctrine that land must be used according to its capabilities. Some are prone to separate conservation, ecology, land use, and pollution, into completely different categories. I feel all of these categories may be combined into two words, land use.

To build airports, highways, parking lots, housing and factories on prime agricultural land must be considered a crime when shallow mantled ground, that does not lend itself to ecological beauty or production, is available. For every verdant acre covered by concrete or black top there is that much less oxygen. This may seem insignificant today, or even tomorrow, but it is not impossible that in some future generation we may black top ourselves to death, by suffocation from lack of oxygen.

Let's turn next to urban sprawl. Urban sprawl is a delicate problem and the solutions to this problem must be handled through both legislation and individual cooperation. I say this because many of the three-to-five acre plots sold outside the city limits are prime producing ground and are sold by land owners from deeded blocks. There is no question but what these land owners have the right to sell their land to whomever they choose, but if these land owners do not take it upon themselves to oversee the proper disposition of their deeded acres, some strict zoning legislation must be enacted to do it for them. Along with urban sprawl comes the people's desire to build along stream banks, or in flood plains. At this date we can say, "Oh, well, if they build there, what happens is their own fault." However the problem is deeper than that. If they are flooded, they will naturally call upon some form of government assistance, be it city, county, state, or federal. Now these people become potential burdens to the tax payers. What is the solution? A possible solution would be some sort of legislation prohibiting building houses in these areas.

Garbage disposal is a problem already here. Do we dump it next to the road? Do we dump it in the streams? Better yet, do we dump it in our neighbors back yard? The answer, certainly not. There have been many proposed solutions. One of the most successful is land-filled dumps. Once again, land use planning enters the picture in the selection of a site.

Many problems of proper land use are yet unsolved. For instance, shall we impound massive bodies of water on the lower reaches of larger streams, or shall we confine our efforts to impounding many smaller bodies of water on the upper reaches?

Another problem is the harvesting of timber. Shall we use the clear-cut method where all timber is taken from a given square and all slash burned and the trees replanted, or shall we use selected cutting, where only trees of a certain diameter are harvested, and the other trees are allowed to mature?

Application of multiple use is of major concern to many people who seek the benefits of public land today. Is there land that will actually lend itself to multiple use to the satisfaction of environmentalists, ecologists, industrialists, recreationalists, and agricultural interests?

Planning for the good use of land is not a new problem, and by the same token is not one unique to a particular area. It is something that affects all parts of the world. For the past ten years soil conservationists have traveled overseas, anywhere from two weeks to two years or more at a time, to aid other nations in meeting conservation challenges. A tribal chieftain in far-off Nigeria had this to say, "I conceive that land belongs to a vast family of which many are dead, few are living, and countless numbers are unborn."

Much has been done in land use planning, but much is left to be done. All people must come to an understanding about our land and their personal responsibility to it. The answers are in cooperation, education, and legislation.

Much legislation has been enacted, and undoubtedly much more will be necessary. To have any effective legislation on land use planning, voters must be informed.

We must make more coordinated use of the various federal agencies which deal in land use planning. As the Nigerian chieftain said, "... the land belongs to a vast family..." a family where no one is too old, no one is too young, and every bit of effort is important.

Young people in 4-H clubs, for years, have been teaching the importance of good land use. Even the youngest members have been an example to members in the community. The Boy Scouts have launched a program called SOAR, Save Our American Resources. This program was such a success the Girl Scouts are joining the project this year. 4-H, Scouts, FFA, and FHA are all examples of young people getting involved.

The vision and dedication of the men who early saw the need for land planning and pioneered so many programs here in the United States and in other parts of the world have turned us around on a path of conservation chaos and have led us down the road to better living today, and hopefully better land use for generations to come. It is everyone's problem. It is everyone's responsibility.

Emily Dickinson, in her poem, "We Never Know How High," said

"We never know how high we are
Till we are called to rise;
And then if we are true to plan,
Our statures touch the skies..."

The need for land use planning is now apparent, and the test is to see if we can rise and solve the problem.

WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

By Dale Marxer

This is a brief report of the trip Pete Jackson, Ole Ueland, Carl Johnson, John Vanisko and I made to Washington, D.C. March 15-19.

The weather was beautiful, the magnolia and dogwood were in bloom and we got to see what rain looks and feels like. I don't know how the rest of you are fixed for moisture but around Great Falls, it is dry.

Pete was attending the NACD Directors Meetings. We attended their meetings also whenever we were not on Capitol Hill. They had some very interesting sessions.

We spent Friday visiting with our Congressmen, with Richard Shoup for an hour, with John Melcher and staff. Then on to the old Senate Office Building where we had an hour and a half in a joint meeting with Senators Mansfield and Metcalf's staffs.

We talked to all of them about the REAP, SCS, and related programs. It looks like a real Mexican standoff between the Congress and the President on the issue of priorities and funding. In the meantime, time is fast running out for restoration of many funds for this year.

We discussed some items in regard to Forest Service and private ownership boundaries.

We inquired about the SEEK proposal which was submitted again.

The saline seep situation was discussed, as was revenue sharing. We learned there are no funds for the Rural Development Act of 1972 to date.

We visited with Mr. Carlson of the Agricultural Research Service. Here we received good news. Mr. Carlson stated it looks hopeful for us to receive some funds for saline seep research and that Dr. Brown would probably be transferred to Ft. Benton.

We also visited the Soil Conservation Service Office and had an interesting discussion there.

We met and talked with Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Robert W. Long. He is in charge of Conservation, Research, and Education. He felt the REAP Program needed some cleaning up and that perhaps there should be some type of program on a contract basis such as Great Plains. We were quick to point out that the Great Plains Program is not available to everyone. Mr. Long is a very down to earth person and we enjoyed talking to him.

We also visited with Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Will Erwin. He stated that there are 70 Congressmen that have no agricultural land in their district at all and another 50 that have less than 10% of their district in agricultural land. So you can see why agriculture is so outnumbered.

At the EPA Office, the top man for Water Programs, John Rhett, Jr. said he was formerly with the Corp of Engineers and has worked with Conservation Districts for a long time and he assured us that he would cooperate with us anyway he could. He pointed out that agriculture in general needs to do a better job of public relations. Many of the other persons said the same thing.

We feel that our trip was very worthwhile. The Congressmen and administration officials appreciated very much visiting with them about our concerns.

Valley County CD

Guy Wagner reported on a news release he had written to be published in the local paper concerning the District and its activities to better inform the public about the work of the District. The Board agreed to publishing the article if the publisher concurred. Also, there would be follow-up articles published from time to time to keep the public informed and up-to-date on district activities.

Francis Laumeyer reported he had seen Suzie Ihnot about the erosion problem on her land. The Board discussed the problem and agreed the supervisor from that area and a technician should look it over first to determine if the BIA should cooperate in taking care of the problem.

Dawson County CD

John McLain told the Board that they may be called on to assist with an outdoor Earth Science Lab just outside of Glendive, on the Marsh Road. It would be an outdoor class room where high school classes could go and study different types of soils and so forth.

Dave discussed the benefits of getting women involved in conservation and suggested the supervisors wives be encouraged to join the women's auxiliary.

Pondera CD

The Pondera Conservation District and the Steering Committee for the Pondera Alkali Control Association are seeking action to control saline seep. They recently approached the Pondera County Commissioners with a request for county funds to finance research work in the county. This would be done by the team of scientists now working in the Highwood area. The commissioners allotted $1500 for the proposal, leaving the door open for increased funding if significant action is promised.

The Cascade District made a similar request of their county commissioners. They were encouraged to prepare a firm proposal and present it to the 6 county commissioners association. Sharing costs in this manner might provide significant funding.

Big Horn County CD

The County High School speech contest for the Conservation District was discussed and the local speech teacher and Vo-Ag teacher are very much interested and plan to promote this and hold the event in May.

Rosebud CD

Between 75 and 85 acres of coal-mined land near Colstrip will be seeded to grass by Western Energy Co. in the next week, Paul Schmechel general manager of the coal mining firm announced recently.

Land to be seeded by Western Energy has been leveled and top soil has been applied. Native grasses predominate the seed mixture to be planted at Colstrip.

Lake County CD

In connection with the Annual Work Plan, outdoor classrooms were discussed. Harris mentioned that Ronan has a 10-acre plot that could be used for a classroom, and Agriculture Instructor Moore would probably be interested. Ideas for information and education were discussed and also ideas for news articles.

WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

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Ordinarily, you can take care of yourself. But some things such as injury or sickness can get beyond your control; leave you unable to work for your living and with huge medical bills to pay. This is when you need help most and we'll give it to you if you have had the foresight to enroll in your MACD Association-sponsored 3-Phase Protection Program.

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COMING EVENTS

Soil Stewardship Week
May 27-June 3, Statewide

Montana Stockgrowers Assn.
May 17-19, Great Falls

Montana Federation Garden Clubs
June 17-19, Lewistown

Youth Range Camp
June 18-20, Glendive

4-H Conservation Camp
June 25-29, Little Bitterroot Lake, Flathead County

MACD Directors Meeting
July 17, Billings

Plant Materials Center Tour
July 18, Bridger

SRM - Intermountain Section
July 26-27, Polson

SCSA Annual Meeting
Sept 30-Oct 3,
Hot Springs, Arkansas

MACD Annual Meeting
November 12-14, Helena

CONSIDER THESE CHANGING CHALLENGES

As the months spin by, the responsibilities of stewardship grow and change. New priorities and problems confront us; new issues and goals emerge. There is more to be done by each of us; more to be done together --

Can we plan land-use for whole regions as well as for ranches and farms?

Can we strive for an end to pollution as we've fought against gullies and floods?

Can we build up the ranks of soil stewards as our cities and suburbs expand?

Can we find ways to capture the vigor of young people who care for the land?

Can we acknowledge that rights of ownership must be tempered by the common good

And insist that resources serve people as all of them, everywhere, should?

Consider these challenges. Consider them well.

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Montana Association CONSERVATION Districts · CONSERVATION · DEVELOPMENT · FULL · GOVERNMENT

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

MAY-JUNE, 1973

CHARLES E. LANE, JR. - PREZ SEZ

Soil or Sediment in the '70s--You will be hearing this from now till convention time as this will be the theme of our 1973 Convention. We will be carrying out the theme that Slim Slattery started on Sediment Legislation. We, as districts, must update our terminology and laws to keep pace with our ever changing world. Sentate Bill 401, is largely the result of the December meeting.

(Continued - Page 10)

MACD DIRECTORS MEET

The Directors of Montana Association of Conservation Districts (shown above) were called together by their new President Charles Lane to a stepped up midsummer meeting on June 3 and 4 at the Holiday Inn in Helena.

Charles Lane, Jr. of Drummond, moved up to President following the resignation of A. G. Slattery, Hardin, who has taken a position with the Department of Revenue in Helena.

(Continued - Page 2)

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Directors (cont)

Sediment Control

Highlighting the Directors' Meeting was a special session to develop a program for Directors' use as a follow up on proposed sediment control legislation to take to the districts in their area before the regular area meetings this fall. It is reasoned that district supervisors need to be more fully aware of 1) the concern by the public for sediment control, 2) the implications of the Federal Water Quality Act as amended in 1972 which in part calls for a program to identify the sources and control of non-point sources of sediment, 3) the requirement that some state agency be designated to develop and carry out an accelerated sediment control program to meet EPA criteria, and 4) the role of conservation districts as proposed in SB 401 patterned after the model sediment control act recommended by Council of State Governments. This act would give added authority and responsibility to conservation districts to bring about local compliance with the provisions of the Federal Water Quality Act administered by Environmental Protection Agency. Conservation District supervisors will need to make up their minds to their role in setting standards and enforcing mandatory controls on violations, or whether some other agency would be better suited.

Presently the Dept of Health, Water Quality Bureau, proposed general water quality criteria, provides that "Pollution resulting from non-point sources, including irrigation practices, road building, construction, logging practices, overgrazing and other practices, are to be eliminated or minimized as ordered by the Department". It follows then that if CDs are to be more involved in sediment control, they will need to also meet the health criteria and work closely with the Health Department to avoid duplication, etc. The attitude of EPA and Montana Health Department is that it would be desirable to have additional specific sediment control legislation along the lines of the model act to be implemented by and thru conservation districts. However, there are groups and organizations strongly opposing districts having this authority by stating that district supervisors represent special interests and can't be expected to police these interests to the extent required. Hopefully Montana CD supervisors will have explored this in sufficient detail to give proper guidance to the 1974 legislature.

Committee Reports

Highlighting the second day of the Association meeting were committee reports and follow thru on convention resolutions.
Budget & Finance - John Vanisko reported for Budget & Finance. Treasurer Gladys Hippe reported a gratifying response by most districts in contributing according to the new dues schedule;
Education - Yugo Nayematsu sent an Education Committee Report which shows good activity in lining up another state speech contest and the promotion by districts of incentives to teachers to enroll in teacher training to teach conservation;
Farm Forestry- The farm forestry committee of which Don Naegeli is chairman was advised by the President to check out the proposed Forest Practices Act for areas of duplication with the proposed sediment control bill;
Legislative - A. G. Slattery gave a comprehensive legislative report relative to districts now being represented on county plan-

Committee Reports (cont)

ning boards and new sub-division land use planning legislation. He stated that there were more than 80 bills requiring district surveillance and he strongly recommended the Association consider hiring a lobbyist to keep up with this task to work more closely with CDs on these matters during legislature.

Program and Outlook - Milo Hilstad raised some questions regarding the future of REAP, revenue sharing, Great Plains, and SCS assistance.

Public Lands - Art Christensen reported on Public Lands Committee survey of contributions from the users of public lands and their worth that has been made in a typical county in New Mexico. He advised that this would be too detailed and time consuming to do in every state, that the New Mexico study proved the point that user contributions to public lands are varied and substantial.

Water Resources - Christensen voiced support of the Water Rights Bill which passed the legislature.

Public Relations - Ray Fenton reported a slow down in Public Relations activity largely caused by non-funding of a Search for Effective Environmental Knowledge (SEEK) program which would have expanded the newsletter Treasure Acres and provided a conservation education coordinator.

Research - Everett Snortland reported on research activities, particularly saline seep which is a growing serious problem.

Planning - Cecil Weeding gave a good rundown on eastern Montana planning activities and the involvement of district supervisors operating much the same as a typical RC&D.

NACD - Pete Jackson left a report relative to NACD activities supported by district dues.

Soil Conservation Bureau - O. M. Ueland reported new Memorandums of Understanding are being negotiated between individual districts and the DNRC, and reviewed briefly the contents of a new agreement between the DNRC and MACD.

SCS - A. B. Linford, State Conservationist, reported on cuts in funding and personnel in the face of broadened SCS activities and demands, and the reductions that will have to be made.

Charles Lane thanked the Directors and Committee Chairmen for good reports, and asked that each Director arrange their own meetings with supervisors in their area before the fall meetings come around. Lane voiced the need to work with and cooperate closely with all agencies and hoped that his term of office would show progress in this area to get all conservation agencies to work together.

Following the MACD Directors Meeting, the SWCDI, Inc., met. It was reported that the Plant Materials Center at Bridger is operating in a very satisfactory manner under a Board of Managers selected from Montana & Wyoming.

Bitterroot, Mile High CDs 1972 Goodyear Award Winners

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. has announced that the Bitterroot Conservation District, Hamilton, Mt., is the Montana first place winner of the 26th Annual Goodyear Conservation Award. The Mile High Conservation District, Butte, Montana, is the second place winner.

EASTERN MONTANA RANCHERS CONSERVE SOIL, PRODUCE BEEF

Hundreds of ranchers in Eastern Montana have been quietly going about the business of making sure there's beef for the table, and at reasonable prices.

With rising costs for everything the rancher must buy and with severe weather conditions at times, the risks become very high. To meet the meat demands of the public, State Conservationist A. B. Linford, said that each rancher must avail himself of all possible technology and programs. One of his major concerns is in maintaining his vegetation and feed supply.

Ranchers in 39 counties in the eastern part of the state have been steadily pinning down land likely to blow, with thick, growing, beef producing grass under the SCS Great Plains Conservation Program. The work done by ranchers in the program has greatly reduced water pollution and sediment production. It has improved the quality of water in many Montana streams.

Land treated in the Great Plains Program totals about one-sixth of all privately owned land in the state. "That's a lot of land, even in a state as big as ours", Linford said.

Over $1,100,000 was contracted by SCS with Montana landowners within the past 12 months in the program. The program will operate at about the same level in the coming year.

SALINE SEEP IN MONTANA

By: Robert Anderson, Chairman
Governor's Emergency Committee
on Saline Seep

Saline seep has been recognized as the number one conservation problem in our state. The last legislature passed a resolution calling attention to this increasingly large phenomena. What is saline seep? What causes it? How much do we have and is it spreading? What can be done about the problem and what are we doing? All these questions need to be answered. My information will be related in laymen's terms and should brief you on the current situation.

A saline seep is a wet saline area, very small to several acres in size, but averaging 3 to 5 acres. It is recognized by its general white appearance and absence of vegetative growth. In the developing stage the area will remain green longer than the surrounding area, and a tractor operator venturing into a seep will find himself suddenly and decisively stuck while the surrounding ground is relatively dry. Saline seep appears in irrigated and dryland cropland, and rangeland, both in high and low rainfall belts, and each seep has its own geological characteristics. One common criteria exists in all as the predominant cause: Moisture is deposited on the land in quantities greater than what is necessary to saturate the root zone of existing vegetation. This moisture follows a path of least resistance, in this case moving horizontally and eventually surfacing to evaporate leaving the dissolved salts picked up in the below surface movements.

A survey of Montana in 1969 indicated 80,000 acres of seep. Recent estimates push this figure up to at least 150,000 acres. North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Canada have the problem. The present level of strip mining in Montana disturbs about 200 acres per year. Researchers generally agree that properly done, this land can be restored to production. Saline seep is spreading to 5,000 to 8,000 new acres per year in Montana alone, and if it can ever be reclaimed in dryland conditions it will be a very slow process.

Limited research in saline seep was initiated in 1969 at Highwood, Sidney and Mandan, North Dakota. This research covers underground investigations and procedures to aid in early detection. Cropping techniques that will use the water where it falls are being tried. We are talking about moisture management. We do not have the answers yet. More research is needed.

The Governor's Emergency Committee on Saline Seep is charged with coordinating efforts to reach solutions to this problem. We are functioning and I am sure we will be able to contribute substantially to future saline seep efforts.

REGULATIONS

New Rules and Regulations seem to be the order of the day as various state and federal laws are being complied with. Following are some of concern to CDs:

Floodway Management - Proposed minimum standards and rules for implementation of the Montana Floodway Management Act have been prepared and circulated for comment. These rules are designed to regulate the type of land development permitted within the designated 100 year floodplain. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation will issue permits.

Water Quality Standards - Proposed amendments to the Montana Water Quality Standards have been circulated by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences. The new rules provide for adoption of a state plan for continuous planning process and water quality management program. Included is a provision that "pollution resulting from non-point sources, including irrigation practices, overgrazing, construction, logging practices, and other practices are to be eliminated or minimized as ordered by the Department." All Conservation Districts have received copies of these standards and should feel free to respond to the Water Quality Bureau, Department of Health, Helena, MT 59601.

Subdivisions - Pursuant to Senate Bill 208, the Division of Planning and Economic Development is in the process of developing minimum standards for use by county commissioners under which to approve plans for subdivisions. Conservation Districts can give assistance in the area of environmental and natural resource assessments, and may want to suggest additional criteria when the standards are circulated for comment prior to adoption.

Mining - Rules and regulations pertaining to strip mining and reclamation have been circulated by the Department of State Lands. Conservation Districts can appreciate the requirement required that topsoil be stockpiled and utilized in any mining operation. Any comments should be directed to the State Lands Department.

Pesticides - Regulations for the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-516) will include a classification system for pesticide products. Regulations deal with effects on the environment, including injury to applicators. Comments on the proposed plan were due June 8, 1973 to the Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D. C. 20450.

MACD-Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences, Memorandum of Understanding Proposed

President Charles Lane, together with O. M. Ueland, DNRC, and Ave Linford, SCS, met recently with Don Willems, Chief of the Water Quality Bureau, Dept. of Health and Environmental Sciences to review proposed revisions in Water Quality standards. A discussion of Federal Water Quality legislation, Montana Water Quality legislation, Conservation District and SCS responsibilities in the area of soil and water, showed a need for cooperation. A special committee was set up to develop a working agreement.

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT

MY TURN: CONSERVATION IS STILL BEGINNING

By: Mrs. Bob Nyquist

A great deal has been done in Roosevelt County since the "Dirty-Thirties" to conserve our soil, and some of us may now consider the job done. Perhaps, because we live in a sparsley populated rural area, yet? We tend to feel quite satisfied with what conservation practices have been developed and that conservation is a concern only to other areas and other peoples.

It may be well to look at a few challenging facts that are facing our growing America today, and Roosevelt County sooner than we may think!

1. Our population of this nation is expected to increase by another 100 million persons in the next thirty to forty years. People need places to live and food to eat.

2. The trend of people moving to the cities where jobs were, seems to be reversing. The trend now is from city to suburb to rural areas where people will hopefully find tranquility in the peace and quiet and see the phenomena of nature. "In all ranks of life, the human heart yearns for the beautiful, and the beautiful things that God makes are His gift to all alike".

3. Our young people today have become extremely environmentally-minded. Consider the "Earth Day" observances they have had in our communities, the drives by organized youth groups to clean up the right-of-ways along our highways, public roads as well as in our towns.

4. There is much controversy about the kinds and purposes of conservation to special interest groups of our soil, water, wildlife, forests, and parks.

5. Pollution of water and air is an ever increasing concern to all.

In our age of expanding knowledge and technology, we need to go to the proficient for advice in planning for utilizing our God-given assets so that the best results can be accomplished.

If the decreasing number of farmers and ranchers are to produce the food and fiber for our vastly increasing population, we better be finding ways of preserving and building our soil to do the job.

The research and studies that are being done on Land-Use Planning must be taken seriously and implemented in providing decent places for our non-farm Americans to live and raise their families as they migrate outward from the inner-city, in order to leave the most fertile lands for agriculture and the less productive areas for living and recreation.

Much serious thought must be given to the uses of our Natural Resources, and some workable agreement made whereby we can all share and live together with our conserved soil, water, wildlife, forests, parks and recreation areas.

Let's harness the energy of our exuberant youth and direct them into constructive programs to clean up and beautify the environment.

Flathead Conservation District

All 8th grade students in Flathead County have an opportunity each year to participate in a conservation tour. Financial support for the annual event is provided by the Flathead Conservation District, Flathead-Pomona Grange, Farmers Union Exchange and the Flathead Electric Coop. The Equity Supply Co. furnishes milk and ice cream which is served by the Grange Ladies. The program is coordinated thru the Conservation District by the County School System and Flathead County Extension Service.

The students are exposed to changing land uses, soil formation, forest and wildlife management, irrigation, land use planning, and environmental problems.

The various stations where the students stop to learn are staffed by local representatives of the Farmers Home Administration, State Fish & Game, U. S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Montana Forestry Division, Montana Agricultural Research Center, Extension Service, Flathead Valley Community College and County Planning Board.

Chouteau and Big Sandy CDs

Chouteau County and Big Sandy Conservation Districts jointly sponsored a Soil Stewardship tour for all religious faiths in 1973. The tour was in the Arrow Creek breaks on the Dostal Ranch, east of Geraldine.

Participating were ten religious leaders and five district supervisors. Soils, vegetation, geology, wildlife and the natural beauty of this rather primitive area was explained to the group by Oscar Pederson and Joe Wirak of the SCS.

A tour in the Bear Paw Mountains was planned this year.

The Dept. of Natural Resources and Conservation has approved the City of Fort Benton's application for a small watershed project.

Garfield County

People have been building waterspreading dikes across Smokey Butte and Lodgepole Creeks for about 20 years. Enough of these detention type structures were built that the creeks could no longer provide dependable water every year for all the systems. About 5 years ago the Conservation District Board of Supervisors declared a moratorium on further developments until an investigation could be completed. Hopefully this would determine the water available each year and the waterspreading area it would support.

The supervisors requested that the Soil Conservation Service make this survey. With the help of the

(Continued Page 9)

Garfield County (cont)

the Snow Survey Team from Bozeman and the Area Engineer from Lewistown, this was done over a period of two years. Runoff records and soil surveys were studied, existing systems were counted and measured, the drainage area was measured and the estimated runoff computed. Most of the ranchers along the creek were interviewed about the efficiency of their systems; how often they filled, how long it took to drain them, what the maximum water depth was, and what size drain pipes they had. This information was compiled into a report for each creek. These reports were presented to the supervisors at their April meeting. These reports showed that Smokey Butte Creek was indeed overdeveloped already but that Lodgepole Creek had not yet been developed to its full potential. The supervisors are now planning for similar investigations on other large watersheds in the District.

Broadwater CD

A Solid Waste Disposal Plan worked out by the Broadwater CD and help from the Committee for Rural Development has been put in operation. A Waste District has been organized by the County Commissioners and is going now. Satellite dumps are planned.

Conservation Districts thruout Montana have a great opportunity to do something about the solid waste disposal problem as Broadwater CD has done.

Fergus County CD

Spring Creek Colony School children planted 50 trees around their school as part of an Outdoor Conservation Classroom. A fence has been constructed around the school grounds to keep out livestock and motor vehicles.

Each and every student planted a tree which will be designated as their very own. Trees were obtained from the State Tree Nursery located at Missoula.

Flowers to further beautify the school grounds will be planted.

It all started last fall after Steven Riehl, school teacher, attended an Outdoor Conservation Classroom Workshop sponsored by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Fergus county Conservation District.

Assisting with the planting of trees were Metro B. Karaffa, SCS, Craig Roberts and Carl Dokstatter, Foresters of the Montana State Department of Forestry and Mrs. Steven Riehl, teacher at the Spring Creek School.

SB 401 will be brought up in the 1974 legislative session in Helena.

At your Directors' Meeting in Helena, June 3 & 4, it was decided to have a Director try to meet with each Conservation District Board in the state to explain and inform supervisors of the content of SB 401.

As I see it, SB 401 updates district law with some new terminology and some specific deadlines. Soil or Sediment is determined by land use. With a good conservation plan, we will conserve soil, only now it is called a "land use plan". Districts have been doing what is in SB 401 for many years and with our input and experience, this will put us way ahead for developing cleaner water and optimum land use in the future for Montana.

Toole County CD

Application blanks were received for a scholarship to be given to an educator for a seminar on Environmental Science to be held in Butte for five weeks this summer. A motion was made and seconded that we give $75 towards tuition. Jack Gilluly will place a notice in the paper concerning the scholarship.

Environmental Science Seminar

A five week Environmental Science Seminar for high school and junior high school teachers will convene at Montana Tech July 16, 1973. Several field trips are included in the curriculum which carries 6 semester credits. There will be no tuition charge to teachers.

The seminar is part of a Headwaters RC&D project proposal and is endorsed by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

421 Mitchell Building - Helena, Montana 59601

Charles Lane, Jr., President, Drummond
Dale Marxer, Vice President, Great Falls
Jeanne Baluka, Secretary, Helena
Gladys Hippe, Treasurer, Froid

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OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

July-August, 1973
Vol. XXV, No. IV

PREZ SEZ - Charles E. Lane, Jr.

Soil or Sediment in the Seventies

Meetings, meetings, meetings. District meetings, Area Meetings, Sediment Meetings, Annual Meetings.

The Sediment Meetings that we are holding to explain SB 401 gives an opportunity for supervisors to discuss with their directors, problems you have and more important to help give them direction in carrying out the business of the Association during the year. Hopefully, if these meetings prove to be successful, I would like to see them continued in the future.

Area meetings are coming the first week in October. Resolutions to be brought to the State Convention will be discussed and passed.

Resolutions and meetings are tools that your officers must have to do the

(Continued - Page 2)

ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTED

A Resource Conservation Advisory Council requested by Gary J. Wicks, Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, has been approved by Governor Judge. The Council will assume certain functions of the State Conservation Commission, which was abolished July 1st, including advising the Department on all programs and activities relative to conservation districts, grazing districts, and other local resource conservation groups. Wicks said, "I believe the Council will greatly assist this Department in carrying out its responsibilities relating to Conservation Districts and State Grazing Districts. It will further provide a vitally needed link to the respective private associations of these districts and to the farmers and ranchers of Montana in general."

The Council consists of eight appointees representing resource conservation interests from all geographical regions of the state, agricultural organizations, and the general public. Voting members include Frank Cimrhakl of Roy; Carl Johnson of Livingston; John Vanisko of Deer Lodge; Gordon Holte of Plentywood; James McCann, Jr. of Harlem, Director of the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts; Charles Lane, Jr. of Drummond, President of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts; and Gladys Elison of Missoula, President of the Montana League of Women Voters. A. B. Linford, State Conservationist, SCS, will serve as a non-voting member of the advisory body. Cimrhakl, Johnson, Vanisko and

(Continued - Page 2)

Prez Sez (Cont.)

job that you want us to do. If you have a problem, drop me a line and hopefully I can find an answer for you.

The Annual Meeting is set for November 12-14 in Helena. Plans are jelling for the best Convention yet. If you come, it will be the best one yet. See you in Helena.

####

Advisory Council (Cont.)

Linford were members of the now defunct Conservation Commission.

A major purpose of the new Council is to aid the Department in its evaluation of applications to obtain financial assistance for water development projects presented under either the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 566) or the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D).

The Council is also expected to (1) study state and federal laws and regulations intended to protect and conserve soil, vegetation and water resources, (2) recommend any changes in those laws it deems necessary, and (3) provide liaison between the Department, individual conservation and grazing districts, the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts.

FOREST PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Earlier this summer the creation of another advisory body to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation was authorized by the Governor upon Wicks' request. The seven member Forest Practices Advisory Council will assist in reviewing SB 405, the Montana Forest Practices Act, which was held over by the Senate Natural Resources Committee for consideration in 1974, recommending possible revisions, and preparing proposed rules and regulations for the bill's implementation should it be enacted.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

Is Conservation Planning a Cure All?

We think the answer to the above question should be a resounding yes if:

1. The plan covers all contingencies in regard to resource problems and opportunities for development.
2. There is sufficient technical and other assistance available for implementation of the plan.
3. The landowner carries the plan to completion.

Who Should Develop A Conservation Plan?

1. All farmers.
2. All rural and urban sub-dividers and developers.
3. Any person who alters the face of our planet so as to expose the raw earth to the elements of wind and water for a given length of time.

What Problems and Opportunities Can Be Included?

1. Erosion and sedimentation by wind and water.
2. Pollution from plant nutrients, herbicides and insecticides.
3. Pollution from animal wastes.
4. Flooding and excessive wetness. (In some cases in cooperation with other owners)
5. Water supply.
6. Range management.
7. Forestry.
8. Fish and wildlife development.
9. Crop rotations.
10. Enhancement of the natural beauty of the country-size.
11. Non-agricultural developments.

Excerpt from the Illinois Agricultural Scene Newsletter - April, 1973.

Nothing is quite so annoying as to have someone go right on talking when you're interrupting.

THE 1973 MONTANA WATER USE ACT

By: Grant Buswell

The passage of the 1973 Montana Water Use Act (Senate Bill 444) by the 43rd Legislative Assembly effected sweeping changes in Montana's water right laws. On July 1, 1973 the new law became effective and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation was charged with administrative responsibility.

Anyone proposing to appropriate waters of the State of Montana after July 1, 1973, must apply for a beneficial water use permit on Form No. 600. Failure to do so is in violation of the new Act. The only exception to this provision is the appropriation of ground water for domestic, agricultural or livestock purposes by means of a developed well or spring with a maximum yield of less than 100 gallons per minute and located outside the boundaries of an established controlled ground-water area. Under this only exception, Form No. 602 must be filed with the Department within sixty (60) days after the development is completed.

The newly created Water Rights Bureau of the Department has been receiving applications for permits to appropriate water as required by the Act. The proposed new water uses have included domestic, stockwater, irrigation, recreation, fish propagation, industrial, commercial and municipal purposes.

The Department has become concerned about non-compliance with certain provisions of the new Act. Among these is the lack of filings of Notices of Completion of Water Development (Form No. 602) by the water well owners as provided in Section 16(4) of the Act. It is imperative that Form No. 602 be filed before the Department can issue a Certificate of Water Right (Form No. 604), which is the formal recognition of the water right.

As a result of the large amount of correspondence received by the Department, it is apparent that a great deal of confusion still exists regarding the distinction between "existing water rights" and "new water rights". An "existing water right" is defined in the Act as a right to the use of water which would be recognized under the law as it existed prior to July 1, 1973. "New water rights" are those water rights required according to the new law for the use of the new act on any new water development after July 1, 1973. If you should have a question on existing or new water rights, please contact the Department for assistance.

It is among the primary purposes of the new Act to "recognize and confirm" all "existing water rights", and a person who has such rights need not be concerned about losing them as long as some proof is available. Many individuals are still attempting to refile or declare their "existing water rights", which is completely premature and unnecessary at this time, even if the water use was never previously filed according to the water laws that existed prior to July 1, 1973. These "existing water rights" may have been documented by recorded evidence or substantiated only by beneficial use. If there is no recorded evidence of an "existing water right", commonly called a "use" right, the holder of such right will be required as will other water right holders to produce such evidence at the time the area or source is selected by the Department for determination of "existing water rights" as required by the new Act. However, it would be beneficial for the claimant of a "use" right to commence gathering evidence of his water right at this time. Such information as the date that the appropriation was initially placed to a beneficial use, the purpose of the use, the amount beneficially used, the point of diversion and place of use described by legal land description, the source or stream from which the water was diverted, and any other related information will be required to be submitted by the appropriator when notified by the Department to do so. Sworn affidavits by witnesses who are aware of your water development will be of considerable value in determining a "use" right.

The Department has selected, but not formally announced the Powder River drainage basin as the first priority area for determination of "existing water rights."

SMALL RECLAMATION PROJECTS ACT

As outlined elsewhere in this issue, the need for more water storage projects is becoming increasingly obvious. Montanans should explore every means to satisfy this need, but at least one possible avenue, the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956, has been thus far overlooked in our state.

Administered by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Act established a program under which certain western organizations, including conservation districts, irrigation districts and water users' associations, may obtain federal loans and grants for water projects of specified purposes and valuation. Construction or rehabilitation of projects for the single purpose of irrigation or drainage of irrigated lands will qualify, as will multi-purpose water resources projects. However, the total cost must not exceed $15 million.

Interest free loans are available for projects intended to irrigate up to 160 acres per single ownership or 320 acres held jointly by husband and wife. For that portion of irriated acreage over 160 acres per person, or for purposes other than irrigation, interest is charged at a low rate (currently 3 5/8%). Grants may be obtained for multi-purpose projects providing flood control, outdoor recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits to the general public, even if no loan is requested, but the maximum federal contribution, whether in the form of a loan, a grant, or a combination of the two, is limited to $10 million per project.

Responsibilities of the applying organization are similar to those requirements under P.L. 566, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. P.L. 566 does offer 50% cost-sharing, but the no-interest provision of the Small Reclamation Projects Act may make the total expense to the organization comparable, even considering the $1,000 non-refundable filing fee required under the latter.

Many neighboring states have used the Act extensively and apparently with satisfactory results. Your group should become familiar with the Act, for it may provide an attractive means to put more of Montana's water to beneficial uses.

####

DROUTH - HIGH PRICES - Bring on Demand for New Water Developments.

Of great concern to all water users, farmers and ranchers, wildlife managers, municipalities and industry, conservationists and the general public, is the drouth which has brought on a critical water shortage in all of western and certain other areas of Montana.

Current world trade demand for agricultural products, coupled with the need to overcome drouth here and in other areas of the world, is reflected in high prices for agricultural products. This puts a severe strain on soil and water conservation land use practices. The demand for technical help to design irrigation and stock water systems has been great this past summer. Many individual systems are being installed and improved. Many operators, in the pressure to expand production, will be confronted with considering changes in land use from grazing to tillable crops, dryland to irrigation, etc. Some of these may be marginal. Critical evaluation and wise decisions need to be made. It has become evident that investments in water projects will be more and more worthwhile and in the public interest.

Water development programs such as P.L. 566 of USDA, the Small Projects Act of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) and Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP) of USDA, together with state and local assistance, are currently available. Local people with local initiative can use these programs to bring about great economic and environmental benefits.

LOSSES AND CHANGES IN PERSONNEL
SCS - MONTANA

January 1, 1973 to Present

Albert J. Spika, District Conservationist at Stanford, transferred to SCS, Nevada, 1/7/73. Replaced by Logan R. Hazen 1/21/73, transfer from SCS, Nevada.

Clarence J. Sweeney, Civil Engineer at Havre serving as Government Representative on the Beaver Creek Watershed, transferred to Bozeman Area Office, 2/4/73. Mr. Sweeney replaced Irving J. Nelson as Area Engineer. Mr. Nelson transferred to Butte as Coordinator for the Headwaters RC&D Project. Dennis M. Fladstol, Civil Engineer at Havre, replaced Mr. Sweeney.

Dean M. Bach, Soil Conservation Technician, Cut Bank, resigned 2/3/73. Position not filled.

Eldred Watts, Civil Engineer, River Basin/Watershed Planning Party, Bozeman, retired 3/2/73. Position not filled.

Laurence Osburnsen, Area Conservationist, Missoula, retired 3/2/73. Replaced by Charles L. Walter, Irrigation & Drainage Engineering Specialist, Bozeman, State Office. Mr. Walter's position in the State Office will not be filled.

Adolph Scherlie, Civil Engineering Technician, Chinook, retired 3/12/73. Nolan L. Bixby, Soil Conservation Technician, transferred from Cut Bank to fill in behind Mr. Scherlie. Technician position at Cut Bank not filled--see Dean Bach above; Bach was replacement for Bixby.

John D. Zinne, District Conservationist, Big Sandy, resigned 3/30/73. This position will not be filled. Office will remain open and be serviced by the District Conservationist at Fort Benton. District will provide office space. SCS has one full-time Soil Conservation Technician (Clarence E. Baxter) headquartered at Big Sandy.

John G. Duke, GS-7 Soil Conservationist, Billinga, retired 5/11/73. Replaced by Arthur C. Gallinger, Soil Conservation Technician, who transferred from Lewistown. Latter position not filled.

Josephine N. Johnson, Voucher Examiner on the Administrative Staff in Bozeman, retired 3/31/73. Position not replaced.

Michael Mattovich, Civil Engineer, Polson, retired 5/26/73. Position not filled.

Gordon Decker, Soil Scientist, State Office, Bozeman, transferred to Circle 6/10/73. Position in State Office not filled.

Lewis Fuller, District Conservationist, Kalispell, retired 6/30/73. Replaced by Arnold Quale, District Conservationist at Miles City. District Conservationist position at Miles City still vacant.

Kenneth Harman, District Conservationist, Bozeman, retired 6/30/73. Position not filled yet.

Orville Zeeh, District Conservationist, and Jacob Patterson, Soil Conservation Technician, Hysham, both retired 6/30/73. Hysham office closed. Forsyth Field Office will service this District.

John Parker, Soil Scientist, Columbus, retired 6/30/73. Position not filled.

Phil VanCleave, Range Conservationist, Miles City, retired 6/30/73. Replaced by Eugene Handl, who transferred from Havre. Halworth Watson, Range Conservationist at Harlowton, transferred to Havre as replacement for Mr. Handl. Watson's position at Harlowton not filled.

William Cardon, District Conservationist at Missoula, retired 6/30/73. Benjamin Hardin, Range Conservationist, Lewistown, will replace Mr. Cardon on 9/4/73. Hardin's position at Lewistown not filled.

Leo Pipal, District Conservationist at Billings, retired 6/30/73. Replaced by Jerrold Jacoby, District Conservationist at Sidney. Myron Saylor, transferred from SCS, Pennsylvania, to replace Jacoby at Sidney.

Ernest Hogan, Soil Scientist at Lewistown, retired 6/30/73. Position not filled yet--scheduled for Spring of 1974.

Clarence Lind, Soil Conservation Technician, Roundup, retired 6/30/73. Position not filled.

George Bryant, State Administrative Officer, Bozeman, State Office, retired 6/30/73. Replaced by Robert G. O'Driscoll who transferred from SCS, Iowa.

Merle Brunsvold, District Conservationist at Joliet, retired 6/30/73. Robert Vollrath, District Conservationist at Chester will replace Brunsvold. The District Conservationist position at Chester will not be filled. Office will remain open and be serviced by the Shelby Field Office. District will provide office space. SCS has one full-time Soil Conservation Technician, Ralph Eklund, headquartered at Chester. Mr. Eklund transferred from Circle. His position at Circle has not been filled.

Robert Packer, Soil Conservationist at Conrad transferred to Missoula Field Office. His position at Conrad will not be filled.

Earl Murray, Range Conservationist at Bozeman, transferred to Malta. Position at Bozeman not filled.

Michael Jackson, Soil Scientist, Columbus, transferred to Ennis. Position at Columbus not filled.

James Stroh, Plant Materials Center Manager, Bridger, transferred to SCS, Palmer, Alaska. Position at Bridger vacant--to be filled after first of year.

Editors Note: Above is a listing of SCS personnel in Montana who have recently left the service. These people have performed a great service and will be sorely missed.

DISTRICT DOINGS

BITTERROOT CD

Shining Mountain Ranch owned and operated by Mr. & Mrs. Bill Mitchell, Sula, MT., operates as a Youth Camp. The 2200 acre ranch contains many good land management and environmental practices.

Shown above is a construction of a 22-acre reservoir started in April and completed in July, 1973. The lake will serve in the camp's waterfront program for swimming, water skiing, fishing and an emphasis on appreciation of nature with specific attention to ecology.

TETON CD

The supervisors invited the county commissioners and the county weed board to their June and July meetings to discuss weed control programs. Commissioners were urged to adopt road building techniques that would facilitate rapid establishment of grass and reduce the opportunity for noxious weeds.

TOOLE COUNTY CD

The Toole County Board met at Chairman Herb Karst's ranch for their June meeting. After the business meeting, they took a tour of conservation problems and practices arranged by Herb.

CHOUTEAU COUNTY CD

The supervisors entertained the Range Council and SCS employees and wives at a picnic at Ryan Dam in July. The event followed their regular meeting and a tour of the Managed Natural Area east of Great Falls. Clair Clark and Joe Wirak, SCS, conducted the tour.

SHERIDAN COUNTY CD

Laurie Miller (left) 2nd Place $25.00
Mark Daeley, 1st Place $50.00.

Ten county high school students participated in a District wide speech contest in Plentywood on Tuesday, May 15th. The contest was open to all high school students on the topic of "Environment, Society and Electrical Energy".

The first place winner will participate in the area contest, comprised of several Northeast Montana counties, next October. Area winners compete statewide November 14 in Helena where the first prize is $250.00.

Prize money for the county contest this year was furnished by the past Plentywood Toastmaster's Club through a donation to the Conservation District.

Bill Smith, supervisor from Medicine Lake, was chairman of the contest.

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT

BY: Mrs. Vi Swank, President

By the time you receive this issue of Treasure Acres, school will be starting. Has the word gotten into your schools about the 1973 Speech Contest? Are your youth aware of the scholarships available for winning this contest? Are they also aware of the cash prizes on the local and area levels that they could win? Do you know that the MACD and the Montana Associated Utilities are sponsoring this contest? Do you know that Montana Casualty Agency is providing additional cash prizes?

The purpose of this contest is to make more people aware of our Conservation Districts-what they are and what we as conservationists are trying to accomplish. What better way to "spread the word" than through our youth. Let's get the information into the schools so that the public can be informed, the "city folks" as well as the farmers and ranchers.

The Theme for the contest this year is "Environment, Society and Electrical Energy". It is open to all 9th through 12th graders. The local Conservation Districts have more information on this if you need it. Please feel free to ask them about it.

Is there any conservation instruction included in the curriculum at your school? Perhaps we, as Auxiliary, should check into this and encourage the schools to offer some conservation courses in the schools. Maybe there is a need for teachers workshops in conservation to be held. Could we encourage this also and maybe do something about it?

Hope all of you are planning to attend the State Convention in Helena in November. There will be interesting things to do and see and some good programs planned for the Convention. Hope to see you there.

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NACD NORTHERN PLAINS AREA MEETING - GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

Montana was represented at Grand Island by Mr. & Mrs. Carl Johnson, John Vanisko, O. M. Ueland, and Peter Jackson, NACD Area Director.

This year's theme of the well attended meeting was "Crisis or Opportunity". The Agenda was highlighted by NACD National President John Wilder's Address on the future role of districts.

Many other exceptional presentations were given on a wide variety of subjects such as Revenue Sharing, the Disappearing District Conservationist and Funding in the Future. These addresses stimulated intense debate and several important resolutions were passed to be presented at the National Convention in February.

It was the feeling of our delegation that this year's meeting was very productive, and many constructive proposals were developed.

Next year's Area Meeting will be hosted by North Dakota at a date and location to be announced.

#######

LAND USE POLICY NATIONAL - STATE AND LOCAL

Passage of a much-needed national land use policy by Congress appears to be imminent. House consideration of land use legislation is expected in October. The Senate has already passed the Land Use Policy and Planning Assistance Act of 1973 (S.268).

The bill requires that within five years of passage that states must develop a land use planning program to include inventories of land and natural resources, data on growth trends, a program to regulate certain land sales and development projects, a statement of land use policies and objectives, methods to control use and development of land in areas of critical environmental concern, methods to control large-scale development of more than local significance, coordination with other planning efforts, and public participation.

Participation by local government officials in developing, implementing and revising a state land use program is required. In addition, the state planning agency must have an advisory council of local elected officials. There are thus excellent opportunities for the Conservation Districts to be directly involved in the determination of Montana's land use program.

In anticipation of the national land use policy, the Montana Environmental Quality Council has launched a two-year state land use policy study. One of the study objectives is to submit comprehensive planning proposals to the 1975 Montana legislature. Governor Judge has recently appointed an Interagency Land Use Advisory Council to assist the EQC in determining the legal and institutional arrangements for land use planning that are appropriate for Montana.

A crucial element of comprehensive planning sorely lacking in Montana is a statement of long-range goals concerning land use, energy and growth. Goals are essential to address the important question, "What are we planning for?" Conservation District supervisors and cooperators will have an opportunity to express opinions as to the future directions of our state during the Governor's citizen meetings in November.

Comprehensive planning will involve coordination and restructuring of many planning-related laws already in the Montana statutes. The more important existing legislation includes the Floodway Management and Regulation Act of 1971; the Utility Siting Act of 1973; the Subdivision and Platting Act of 1973; and a newly enacted law expanding the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences over subdivisions. In addition, HB 275 requires the appointment of a conservation district supervisor to each county planning board to correlate CD planning with county planning.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is completing two projects that will be of assistance to the districts in land use planning. A land capability study for land use planning in Montana will hopefully be published and available for distribution during the District Area Meetings, October 1-6. The Conservation District Long Range Program Guidelines will also be available in draft form for discussion at that time.

RECP

The "Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973" has been signed into law by President Nixon. Among its provisions are a "Rural Environmental Conservation Program" (RECP) which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into long term contracts to carry out the purposes of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act and the Water Bank Act. These contracts will be according to conservation plan developed in cooperation with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Appropriations for this program are still pending.

AGRICULTURISTS WARNED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR TAX STATUS

Senate Bill #72, passed by the last legislature has been referred to as the Montana Green Belt Act. This Act permits all lands actively devoted to agricultural uses to be taxed on the basis of productivity rather than market value. Owners of agricultural land must make application for this taxable status on forms available in the county assessor's office. Application must be made by October 1, 1973. However, applications will be accepted for an additional sixty days upon payment of a $25 late filing fee. It is extremely important that all farmers and ranchers apply for classification under provisions of the Green Belt Act since the law provides that only land covered by such application may be valued on the basis of productivity rather than market value. Applications are now available in the county assessor's office and the assessor will assist in preparation of the form.

Coming Events

September	13-15	League of Cities and Towns	Great Falls
October	1-6	MACD Area Meetings	
		Area VI Oct. 1	Three Forks
		Area IV 2	Roundup
		Area II 3	Miles City
		Area I 4	Wolf Point
		Area III 5	Big Sandy
		Area V 6	Missoula
October	18-19	MWDA Meeting	Butte
November	8-9	RAD Annual Meeting	Bozeman
	10	Grazing Districts Annual Meeting	Malta
	13-14	MACD Annual Meeting	Helena
	15-16	State Weed Meeting	Miles City

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

421 Mitchell Building - Helena, Montana 59601

Charles Lane, Jr., President, Drummond
Dale Marxer, Vice President, Great Falls
Jeanne Baluka, Secretary, Helena
Gladys Hippe, Treasurer, Froid

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OFFICIAL NEWS-BULLETIN

Sept.-Oct., 1973
Vol. XXV, No. V

ANNOUCING the 32ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

PREZ SEZ - Charles E. Lane, Jr.

Another meeting coming up! MACD Convention in Helena. This is the big one for the year when we set policies and you give directions to your officers for the next 12 months.

Things are changing rapidly in this time we live and it is important that you make yourself heard. I have no doubt that you will.

After touring the state for area meetings, listening and observing, I am certain supervisors are aware of the many changes coming their way, also the added responsibility being thrust on them by new legislation. By being informed on what is happening on the state and national level, we can do our job on the local level effectively and keep the control at the grass roots. In doing this job, we must remember that states and national bureaus are there to help us accomplish the job. Don't hesitate to call for help when you need it.

See you in Helena.

By now, you should have your calendar marked for the 12-14th of November. This years convention should prove to be of great interest to supervisors. Make your reservations at the Colonial Hilton Motor Hotel at your earliest opportunity.

"Soil or Sediment in the '70's" will be this year's theme and will emphasize our future role in controlling sediment. Bob Anderson, Cecil Weeding, Senator McGowan, Representative Al Kosena and Marvin Cronberg will present a panel discussion on "Sediment Control".

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Robert W. Long will highlight the Keynote Luncheon while Lt. Governor Christiansen will speak at the Annual Banquet. Wrap-Up speaker will be Ken Williams from the SCS Office in Portland.

The first night will be a Youth Night to be culminated by a speech contest which is a tremendous treat showing just what our young people can do.

Everyone will have a chance to air their ideas at the committee meetings which constitute an important part of the Convention.

NOVEMBER 12-14, 1973

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

By: Ted Doney

Several proposals are being prepared by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for consideration by the second session of the 43rd Legislature, which will convene in January.

1. The Montana Forest Practices Act, SB 405, was held over from the last session. Review and revision of the bill by the Department, with the assistance of a seven-member Forest Practices Advisory Council, have been completed, and recommended rules for the Act's implementation have been developed. Following circulation of a draft environmental impact statement on the proposed law and rules, public hearings will be held in Kalispell (Nov. 5), Missoula (Nov. 6), Helena (Nov 7), Lewistown (Nov. 8) and Bozeman (Nov. 9).

Basically the Act would vest authority in the Board of Natural Resources and Conservation to adopt rules establishing minimum standards for certain forest practices on state and private forest lands. Such affirmative actions include reforestation, road construction, tree harvest, use of chemicals and fertilizers and the disposal of slash, but the use and management of forest lands would not be controlled.

Two requirements would be made by the Act: (a) complying with the rules as adopted, and (b) notifying the Department of an intention to conduct a forest practice operation. Although neither permits nor bonds would be required, enforcement remedies have been included.

In the opinion of the Department, the Forest Practices Act represents a well-reasoned and acceptable approach which will help ensure the perpetual growing and harvesting of tree species while simultaneously protecting the soil, air, water and wildlife resources on forest lands.

2. Minor amendments may be proposed to clarify the Montana Water Use Act, which became effective on July 1st, and to make its administration more efficient. For example, outside a controlled groundwater area, a new water right may be acquired without a permit for domestic, agriculture or livestock purposes by means of a developed spring or well with a maximum yield of less than 100 gallons per minute. However, within 60 days after completion, the appropriator must file Form No. 602, "Notice of Completion of Water Development," and the well driller must file Form No. 603, "Well Log Report". The Department will propose that only one form, rather than two, need be filed in this situation.

3. H.B. 586, which also was held over from the last session, would increase assessments made on owners of classified forest land for fire protection and suppression services provided by the Department's Division of Forestry. As the bill now stands in the Senate, the increase would be from 10¢ to 18¢ per acre per year on Class 1 land, and from 3¢ to 6¢ on Class 2 land.

4. SB 401, the Sediment Control Bill, was also introduced and held over during the last session. The Department is looking forward to a positive expression of support from the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and the individual districts before deciding whether to endorse this bill.

Any questions or comments concerning these proposals would be welcomed by the Department.

####

In Hospital -

Ole Ueland, Editor of Treasure Acres and Chief of the Soil Conservation Bureau, DNRC, was injured at his ranch Oct. 15, 1973. He has been hospitalized since then at the St. James Community Hospital and will be recuperating at his ranch at Silver Bow for many weeks yet. We know that he would appreciate hearing from you.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
32ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
Colonial Hilton, Helena, Montana
November 12-14, 1973

AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

1:00 p.m.	Registration (1:00-5:00 p.m.) - Lobby
2:00 p.m.	MACD Director's Meeting - Gold Nugget Room
3:30 p.m.	Resolutions Committee Meeting - Gold Nugget Room
5:30 p.m.	Hospitality Hour - Executive Room (No Host)
6:30 p.m.	Opening Meeting "Youth on the Move" Charles Lane, President presiding Presentation of Colors - 4-H Members - Executive Room Dinner Master of Ceremonies - Clark Pyfer Invocation - Richard Setterstrom Welcome - Frank Thompson, Chairman, Lewis & Clark County Conservation District Speech Contest - "Environment, Society & Electrical Energy" - Yugo Nayematsu, presiding

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

8:00 a.m.	Registration (8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
8:30 a.m.	Morning Session - Executive Room Dale Marxer, Vice President, presiding
8:45 a.m.	President Report - Charles Lane Gary J. Wicks, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Saline Seep Report - Robert Anderson, Chairman, Governor's Emergency Committee on Saline Seep.
9:30 a.m.	Coffee - Courtesy, First Security Bank
10:00 a.m.	Panel - "Sediment Control" - Robert Anderson, presiding Marvin Cronberg, Western Program Advisor, NACD Representative Al Kosean, Anaconda Senator Gordon McGowan, Highwood Cecil Weeding, 18 County Development Assn., Jordan
12:00 noon	Keynote Luncheon - Judicial Room Invocation Earl Conver Master of Ceremonies - Harry Corry Entertainment - Mrs. Della Merritt Keynote Address - Assistant Secretar of Agriculture Robert W. Long Newsletter Awards

Tuesday (continued)

1:30 p.m.	Afternoon Session, Charles Lane, presiding Treasurer's Report - Gladys Hippe NACD Area Director's Report - Peter V. Jackson
2:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings - (Rooms to be announced)
3:30 p.m.	Coffee - Courtesy, Bank of Montana
4:00 p.m.	Committee Meetings continued
6:00 p.m.	Social Hour - Executive Room Courtesy - Elk River Concrete Company
7:00 p.m.	Banquet- Executive Room Master of Ceremonies - Frank Dunkle Invocation - Mervin H. Haub Entertainment - Quartet Goodyear Awards Presentation Banquet Speaker - Lt Governor Bill Christiansen

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:00 a.m.	Director's Breakfast - Gold Nugget Room Courtesy - First Nat'l Bank and Trust Company
8:30 a.m.	Business Meeting - Executive Room- John Vanisko, presiding Ladies Auxiliary Report - Vi Swank, President
10:00 a.m.	Coffee - Courtesy, Northwestern Bank & Union Trust Co.
10:30 a.m.	Business Meeting continued
	Adjournment
11:00 a.m.	SWCDMI Business Meeting -Executive Room
12:00 noon	Luncheon - Judicial Room Master of Ceremonies - Henry Hibbard Invocation - Jack Cory Wrap-Up Speaker - Ken Williams, Director, Western Regional Tech Service Center, USDA SCS, Portland Oregon Supervisor Awards
	Adjournment
2:00 p.m.	Director's Meeting

LADIES AUXILIARY AGENDA

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

2:00 p.m. Tour of Governor's Mansion

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:00 a.m. Welcome
Response
Entertainment
Business Meeting - Vi Swank, presiding
Luncheon
Invocation - Lila Larson

The Women are encouraged to attend and participate in all regular Convention activities.

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IN MEMORIUM

Milo Hilstead, Chairman of the McCone County Cons. District Board, presenting Mrs. Robert Brown with plaque.

A plaque was presented by the McCone Conservation District to the family of Robert Brown, Supervisor, who passed away this summer as a result of a farm electrocution accident. Bob was an outstanding supervisor and a dedicated conservationist. Bob would likely disagree with you on some matters of controversy, but good discussion and good decisions would result, and he was always a friend.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Bob's wife Margaret and family.

Carl Zinne, Supervisor, Lower Musselshell CD, passed away earlier this year as a result of a heart attack.

At the time of his death, Carl was County Commissioner of Golden Valley County. He gave very high priority to soil and water conservation matters. He often expressed great gratitude to the state office for information and advice provided him. His leadership contributed greatly to conservation activities.

His wife Bertha and sons continue the farm and ranch enterprise in the Big Valley.

DISTRICT DOINGS

Eastern Sanders & Green Mountain CD

A fair exhibit was prepared for both districts. Pictures of projects in the entire county was the subject of the display. Numerous fairgoers viewed the display and commented on the photos.

Bitterroot CD

Chairman Costello advised he had received by telephone the confirmation of Iman's appointment to the County Planning Board.

Toole County CD

Duane Gripentrog, High School Biology Teacher at Shelby, gave a most interesting report on the Environmental Science Seminar he attended during the summer at Montana Tech, Butte. Mr. Gripentrog reported that it was one of the most worthwhile classes he has taken. They studied Basic Ecology, Basic Geology and Chemical Pollution with speakers from a number of sources including representatives from the Forest Service, Anaconda Company, Conoco Refinery, Hydrogeologist, Marvin Miller from Montana Tech and many others. The last week of the Seminar was a field trip by bus to different localities in Montana. They toured the forest area near Missoula where both clear cutting and selective cutting were going on. Also, the Intermountain Sawmill at Missoula; at Twin Bridges, they were given a tour concerning range management. From there, they went to Quake Lake near Yellowstone to visit the geological area and on to Yellowstone Park where they had a forum on wildlife in the park and a discussion on geo-thermal energy. The next stop was at the Conoco Refinery in Billings and then on to Colstrip where they saw the strip mining and the area under reclamation. Mr. Gripentrog would like to set up an outdoor classroom at Lake Sheloole, he told of a number of ideas that he has outlined and would like to carry out. Herb Karst suggested that the District help him in any way possible.

Wibaux CD

NACD policy positions for 1973 will be routed among the members of the Board.

Roadside tree planting was discussed. Problems anticipated were: availability of trees, getting land, revenue sharing, county commissioners approval. Initiating borrowpit seeding was also discussed again.

McCone CD

A supervisor's range tour was held on Oct. 11. The tour was of Lyle Quick's multi-purpose dam and irrigation system, Dale Hubing's grass seeding and weed control project, Elmo McCloy's fish pond, trees and irrigation system and Bob Schmidt's pipeline and stock tanks. Each rancher will be asked to come along on this tour.

Lincoln CD

Reports from each agency assisting the Lincoln CD are to be written and gathered for the 1972 Annual Report.

Beartooth RC&D

Gary Litzkow reported that Larry Pyke of the State Forestry Division had been up to view timber in his area for inventory purposes. Larry will contact their resource people in Missoula who will recommend the type of mill to set up. Dave Matovich mentioned that bridge timbers are very difficult to get and felt that some counties would be interested in getting some.

SEDIMENT CONTROL IN MONTANA

"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of soil and soil resources of this state, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion, and for the prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, and for... of this state." The foregoing is a direct quote from the declaration of policy in the Montana Conservation Districts Law in its present form. Substantially the same policy was stated in the original Soil Conservation Districts Law enacted in 1939. Most of the 3024 soil and water conservation districts over the country are based on similar principles. Sediment control is not a recent concern of conservation districts. It has, in fact, been a basic tenet on which they were founded.

The long-time concern for sediment pollution has generally not been shared by society. Only recently has the general public become aware of the need for sediment control at the source -- on the land. This general public awareness has been accentuated by a growing public concern for clean water. The result has been support for, and passage of, federal legislation such as the Federal Water Quality Act of 1965, the Clean Air Act Amendment of 1970, and the Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972. These actions, in turn, prompted several states to enact similar legislation. States that now have some kind of legislation aimed at controlling sediment include: Colorado, Florida, Vermont, Maine, South Carolina, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

In March of 1972, the National Symposium on State Environmental Legislation held in Washington, D.C. by the Council of State Governments adopted two important resolutions. They said that the responsibility for an erosion and sediment regulatory program should be placed in the conservation districts. The second resolution suggested state erosion and sediment control legislation should be drafted in the form of an amendment to existing conservation district enabling laws. This is the route that many states have gone.

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 requires states to develop a comprehensive and continuing planning process for water quality management. Plans must include not only point source controls, such as municipal waste water treatment plants, but also controls for diffuse land runoff and other nonpoint sources. Beginning in 1975, the states must submit annual reports to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that inventory all point sources of pollution, assess existing and anticipated water quality, and propose programs for nonpoint source control.

It is at this point where Montana finds itself today. Conservation districts have the opportunity to back legislation that will carry forward a job they started many years ago. Such legislation could help them complete this job. It appears that one of the best ways to do this would be to amend the Montana Conservation Districts Law to strengthen it in the areas of soil erosion and sediment control.

Last year Senator Gordon McGowan introduced Senate Bill 401 which would have amended sections of the Montana Conservation Districts Law to provide for stronger soil erosion and sediment control. This bill was held over for consideration at the upcoming legislature. At the recent six area meetings of Montana Conservation Districts a poll taken at each meeting showed that conservation districts strongly support such legislation. If enacted, it will mean that districts will take a big step toward soil erosion and sediment control in Montana.

By: O.M. Ueland, Editor

State Government Public Forums

Governor Judge will be holding meetings throughout the state with local government officials and the general public on subjects of environment, coal strip mining, land use planning, the energy crisis, saline seep, economic development, taxes, education, and general recognition of our number one industry and the related problems of living in a rural area.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

EASTERN DISTRICT (Oct. 29-Nov. 2)		WESTERN DISTRICT (Nov. 12-16)	
Havre	October 29	Cut Bank	November 12
Glasgow	October 30	Kalispell	November 13
Glendive	October 31	Hamilton	November 14
Miles City	November 1	Dillon	November 15
Lewistown	November 2	Livingston	November 16

The meeting with local government officials will be at 1:30 p.m. in each community and the public forum will begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. in each community.

Please watch your local news sources for the exact location of the public forum in your area.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

421 Mitchell Building - Helena, Montana 59601

Charles Lane, Jr., President, Drummond
Dale Marxer, Vice President, Great Falls
Jeanne Baluka, Secretary, Helena
Gladys Hippe, Treasurer, Froid

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Treasure Acres

O. M. Ueland. Editor, Mitchell Building, Helena, Montana

OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

Nov.-Dec., 1973
Vol. XXV, No.VI

The MACD Officers for 1974 are: Upper left, Yugo Nayematsu, Vice President; right, Charles E. Lane, Jr., President. Lower Left, Gladys Hippe, Treasurer; and right, Jeanne Baluka, Secretary.

The Directors are: Area I, Ken Coulter and Oscar Hippe; Area II, Milo Hilstad and Harold Jensen; Area III, Everett Snortland and Tom Wharram; Area IV, Yugo Nayematsu and Robert Jorgenson; Area V, John Vanisko and Charles Lane; Area VI, Carl Johnson and Siev Seidensticker; Directors at Large, Cecil Weeding and Peter V. Jackson.

PREZ SEZ - Charles E. Lane, Jr.

At our Executive Committee Meeting after the Convention it was decided with the increased costs that Treasure Acres needed a new look. So with this issue we are trying it out. Brevity is the byword. Hopefully we will be able to cover current activities.

Some of the things which you should be thinking about are: "Colocation" about which you will be hearing much more; legislation that is important to districts will be coming up in the next couple of months; and national decisions affecting district operations. At the Convention you heard about some of the changes that may be in store for Districts at the state level and also on the national level. This is one reason our meetings are so important to attend so we have an idea of the big picture. It is important that we don't find ourselves in the position of not being able to see the forest for the trees.

DISTRICT DOINGS

Wibaux CD: Don Anderson, SCS Resource Conservationist of Sidney, made a progress report on the new District long-range plan. He discussed the format used and pointed out the current situation statement supplementing each resource map. The Supervisors prime input will be to point out problems and opportunities in the district after the maps and statements are assembled.

Members of the Youth Board reported on their activities. The Seniors from the FFA Chapter are taking a trip to Kansas City to receive an award earned in the Building Our America Contest. They have offered to develop a map of the extent of saline seep in the district.

Sweet Grass County CD -- S.B. 401 was again discussed. Franklin mentioned that the bill is going to be rewritten. Drafts of the new bill should be coming in the mail soon. The Sweet Grass County Protective Association will be given extra copies of the analysis of SB 401 for distribution.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - Chairman John Vanisko, Deer Lodge

January 7th is the beginning of the 1974 Legislative Session. If you have any ideas, please get them to us now. We hope all supervisors will keep up on all bills concerning districts. The toll free number to call for information is 800-332-2272. Copies of bills can be obtained by contacting the Legislative Mail Room, State Capitol, Helena. Be sure to include the number and short title of the bill. And don't forget, there are deadlines for filing bills.

PROGRAM AND OUTLOOK COMMITTEE - Chairman Harold Jensen, Baker

The 1974 MACD Program will be largely directed toward encouraging districts and cooperating agencies to identifying critical areas needing sediment control in recognition of certain emphasis given to this in the Federal Water Quality Control Act. Continuing emphasis will also be given to updating and revising of conservation district long range programs to correlate with new demands for broader land use planning.

PUBLIC RELATIONS - Chairman Bill Sibra, Big Sandy

At our recent convention, a concensus of opinion was that Conservation Districts should give consideration to working with environmental organizations to gain support for our programs particularly in water development projects, and erosion control practices.

EDUCATION - Cochairmen Vi Swank, Poplar, and Milo Hilstad, Circle

The 1974 Speech Contest is now in action with "Soil or Sediment in the '70's" as the theme. Of immediate concern is that district supervisors or the Ladies Auxiliary contact the local school administrators to arrange for their contest. The state contest offers over $500 in prizes supplied by Montana Associated Utilities and Montana Casualty Company.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE - Chairman Gladys Hippe, Froid

The majority of Conservation Districts are to be commended for 100% payment of dues in 1973. The 1974 dues statements have now been mailed to each district. Partial payment now and the rest later is in order if circumstances do not permit full payment. If you have any questions as to how your money is being spent, please read your financial statement and budget report, or write to me if you have additional questions.

WATER RESOURCES AND PUBLIC LAND COMMITTEE - Chairman Art Christensen, Dillon

Montana's new Water Law provides for the reservation of water for future use by entities of state government. It has been suggested that Conservation Districts file on reservations of water for future use. Would your district be interested in pursuing this matter? Let me know your feelings.

RECREATION AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE - Chairman Frank Thompson

The NACD Recreation and Natural Environment Committee is currently in the process of working thru Conservation Districts to update the Inventory of Private and Semi-private Outdoor Recreation Facilities throughout the nation. Inasmuch as Montana CDs all participated in the 1969 inventory, the MACD feels that this was very thorough and is current enough to meet the needs without further updating.

GREAT PLAINS COMMITTEE - Chairman Oscar Hippe, Froid

The Montana Great Plains Committee recommends that the Great Plains regulations be amended to allow second contracts to the extent the gross allowable amount under a single contract and the 10-year time limitations, exclusive of time intervening between contracts, not be exceeded.

NACD NAT'L CONVENTION - Houston, Texas, February 10-14, 1974. Have you made your reservations? Don't wait, we need plenty of representation. Mail reservations to: NACD Housing Bureau, 1006 Main Street, Suite 1101, Houston, Texas 77002.

Have you visited League City? There will be shuttle bus service from the Convention so everyone will have an opportunity to view our printing shop.

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